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Inc. presents...

"Yes I Can"

Atlanta Youth Essay/Poem Contest 2009



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“Yes – I Can”

The Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc (BCF) Atlanta Youth Initiative

BCF, Inc., presents our first “Yes, I Can!” essay/poetry/video contest. This youth initiative was for Atlanta area youth between the ages of 10 and 21. Our 44th USA president Barack Obama’s message of “Yes We Can” encourages us to understand that change comes from within. If we want change, then we must change ourselves.

The purpose of this initiative is to utilize Bessie Coleman’s legacy as a role model for students as they encounter challenges in their lives and to also especially encourage young women to pursue math and science careers. Our goal is to encourage and teach youth to set goals (hopefully with aviation in mind), to resolve conflict and to become financially savvy! In a selfless vision to promote this mission, BCF members/supporters Debora Catron, Christine Glass, Thelma Rudd and Michelle Scott visited several youth groups including Clark Atlanta University Upward Bound, Decatur NAACP, Greater Fortress Ave Baptist Church, Green Forrest Community Baptist Church, and House of Faith Prayer Ministry in late June.

Among the prizes this year were aerial “Bi-Plane Rides Over Atlanta,” and admission to the

Fly-Sister-Fly Empowerment Breakfast to meet this year’s honorees - Atlantic Southeast Airlines Captain Rachelle Jones, First Officer Stephanie Brown Grant, and flight attendants Diana Galloway and Robin Rogers, of Atlantic Southeast Airlines. These four dynamic aviation pioneers made history on February 12, 2009, as the first all female African-American commercial flight crew to operate a commercial jet revenue flight.



“Yes – I Can” Essay/Poem/Video Contest

Have you ever wondered what was going through Bessie Coleman’s mind when she decided to learn to fly this new contraption called an airplane although most people around her told her that she could not do it? On June 15, 1921, the twenty-four year old Queen Bess, a beautiful, “fly”, brown skinned woman, became the first American citizen to receive an International Pilot’s license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (F.A.I.). This license gave her authority to pilot an aircraft anywhere in the world!

- ✚ Why do you think Bessie Coleman set a goal to learn to fly an airplane?
- ✚ What goals have you set for yourself? Why?
- ✚ What would Bessie Coleman suggest that you have to start doing, or stop doing, in order to accomplish your goal?

Contest participants had to write an essay or poem or create a video that answered all of the three questions above. There was no single correct answer, so they were encouraged to be creative and think carefully about how they may be like Bessie Coleman and YES – THEY DID!

"Because of Bessie Coleman – We have overcome that which was worse than racial barriers. We have overcome the barriers within ourselves and dared to dream!" "Lieutenant William J. Powell (1897-1942)

When you read these essays, you will understand why this was a difficult task. Every one of the entrants were excellent .. and the winners are ..

Brianna Carr

Winner in age category 10-13

Abra Davis

Winner in age category 14-17

Darryl Jennings Jr.

Overall Winner

Marcco Demond Smith II

Winner in age category 10-13

Jazmyne P Spurlock

Winner in age category 14-17



Tolu Akintade

Dear Bessie Coleman Foundation,

I think Bessie was an inspirational woman because she didn't give up. Most of the time she wasn't negative but when you think about it she was a positive person and, you think only positive about her. She made goals for herself and achieved them. That is what I like about her.

My goal is to make myself feel better about my grades so I won't have to worry. Then only then I can relax and I can get a dog and I won't be left behind when my friends are getting good grades and I am just normal. If I can do that I can do whatever I want to do and I'll be more enthusiastic about my studies. Maybe I can set my goals now and go for it.

Maybe Bessie Coleman would suggest I lose the attitude and work hard for it if I can't get over it I will never do good and believe in myself and if I can't take I'll be a loser. I will never be a loser I couldn't never be called that ever and neither did Bessie Coleman and I will be successful in life like Bessie Coleman.

When I get in 6th grade I will work hard so my mother will be so happy that she had me. Then my mom can show me off and I will be the happiest person in the world. Now I won't think of my flaws and think about what Bessie Coleman because she can believe and so can I. When you came I thought I was thinking about my flaws but now I think of positive.

Now my last thoughts is that I believe that this a good foundation and I am so happy that you came

Love
Tolu Akintade

Toyin Akintade

I think Bessie Coleman set a goal and also broken racial barriers, also by being a woman. She was a prime example of determination and courage. She went to France to further her education also to be a pilot. Her goal was reached, and she became a successor. That is how she became the first American to earn F.A.I. Pilot licenses.

My long-term goal is to be a Pharmacist with a PhD. My short-term goal is to get all A's and excel at math and science. I want to push myself to be my best. I also try to be active in school activities such as: Beta Club, cheerleading, dancing, ECT. That is what I want to accomplish in my life.

I think I lack determination. I think I should stop putting things to the last minute. I also should start setting a time for every place. Because I lack determination, the drive to do something, like waking up, doing work and etc. That is what I think she would have told me.

Bessie Coleman was a role model. She broke barriers for people like me today. She died in an airplane accident. She devoted herself to flight and anything that consider airplanes. That is why she is one out of my five of my favorite role models.



Cedric Brown

Bessie wanted to show that a African American female can do a mans job. Bessie was not afraid to try new things. When Bessie was young she set her mind to being a pilot. Bessie set her goal to fly a plane. Bessie was brave to become a pilot.

I want have a basketball career because it's a sport I'm good at. Bessie would encourage me to finish. I know I can be better than I know. Learning is the main thing that carries me forward.

Mostly Bessie will say stop because, too much of anything can fade a dream. Moving to something new means that you can discover something new. Switching sports, careers, or jobs. Being in the same is good. Working on one thing constantly can make you better.

Bessie Coleman was a good pilot. One day Bessie wanted to fly an airplane and died. Bessie flew the plane and suddenly burst into flames. Bessie Coleman died. So I continue to live my dream to play Basketball and just like Bessie I didn't give up.

Brianna Carr

*****Winner in age category 10-13*****

I think Bessie Coleman set a goal to learn to fly an airplane because she wanted to be the 1st American to earn a F.A.I. Pilot's license. Also because Bessie wanted to fly over the world. I think she wanted to fly so if there is somewhere she wanted to go she could go. She wanted to prove to all people that you could do what you want to do only if you set your mind to it. I also think Bessie had to read a lot of books about airplanes.

The goals I have set for myself is to be an author because I love to write, comprehend, use my vocabulary exponentially, spell, and to read voraciously. My other goal is to be a veterinarian because I love to take care of animals. I would like to be a singer because I love to sing. My other goal is to be smart, get my education, go to a good college, and to get a good job. I would also like to be a dancer because I like to dance.

Bessie Coleman would suggest that I would need to do more work and less talking. I should listen to my teachers more. I should obey my parents all the time. I should not hang around the wrong crowd. I should stay away from bad things.

I would use Bessie Coleman's examples to be an author by not doubting myself. Bessie Coleman was brave because some of the stuff that she did I might be scared to do. One day I might be like Bessie Coleman to get my Pilot's license, get my own aircraft, and teach other people how to fly.



Abra Davis

*****Winner in age category 14-17*****

My name is Abra Davis. I am a rising eleventh grader and I attend South Gwinnett High School in Snellville, Georgia. I am a member of the school's marching band as well as the school's symphonic band where I play the trumpet. I also play the tuba with my church band and have played the piano for ten years. I attend aviation classes at Fulton County Airfield. The name of the program is ACE which stands for Aviation Career Enrichment and I've been a participant for a little over two years. I am training to become a private pilot. I've been exposed to these activities and many other programs that have broaden my horizon to reach my future goals.

I believe that Bessie Coleman set a goal to learn to fly an airplane because of her fascination with the machine. Before airplanes were invented, only birds could soar in the skies. With the invention of the airplane, man can now conquer a new frontier. Learning how to fly is an accomplishment that very few ever achieve. Like me, Bessie Coleman probably wanted to fly not necessarily to prove she could do something, but for the sheer joy of it.

I have set many goals for me to achieve. My goal is to obtain a private pilot's license and eventually learn how to fly commercial jets. My plan is to obtain my private pilots license by the time I graduate from high school. I will attend Tuskegee University to obtain a bachelor's degree in some area of aviation.

College will also allow me to learn more about the aspects of flying. After that, I will apply with home-based Delta Airlines or another major airlines to train on simulators to learn how to fly commercial jets. This will provide me with a start in the field of aviation and find a job with a major airline

If Bessie Coleman could give me suggestions on how to accomplish my goals, she would tell me to take my ACT/SAT college entrance exams and also continue to study hard and make good grades. She would also tell me to continue in my ACE classes.

I am really interested in joining your Bessie Coleman Foundation and I hope you will like my essay.

Jordan Duffin

Bessie Coleman was a great lady. She was the first American to earn F.A.I License. Her goal was to be a flight instructor. She lived in the 1920. She died in a airplane accident.

Bessie Coleman went to France to learn how to fly. Because people in an America wouldn't teach her how to fly. Because of the color of her skin.. So , they wouldn't teach her.

I want to play football at my school . So, I will have to stop playing video game. And start practice my catching ,throwing,and running . but ms.coleman would want me to do me home work be for I pracite. But that's the main thing to do.

Richard Gray

Bessie Coleman went out to set a goal because, she was always determined. Ms. Coleman never quitted even when people gave up on her. Ms. Coleman was a striving student. Ms. Coleman always had faith in herself. Ms Coleman wanted to make a change.

The goals I set out for myself are all A's in my school year. To be the best in my class, always on top. I want to become a NFL player or a Mechanical Engineer. Attend my dream collage (Georgia Tech). Have a great life to live.

What I think Bessie Coleman would tell me is that don't stop. Even when things get hard, that means your one step up on your goal. Do not pay any attention of what people say about that dream. Do not ever quit on that dream. Be the BEST at what you want to become.

MS. Coleman is going to be my role model. Ms. Coleman inspires me in every way I could imagine. Ms. Coleman inspires me to take on new challenges I never imagined taking. Ms. Coleman was always brave in my eyes and mind. I want to be exactly.

Atinek Hopkins

I think Bessie Coleman set a goal to fly an airplane because it was something she wanted to do. She was one of those people who never gave up her dream. Even when people told her she would never fly an airplane. That's why she was the first American to earn a F.D.I pilots license.

She went all to France to learn to fly. In her time zone white people did not believe that blacks were mentally able to fly an airplane. Bessie Coleman gave her life to prove that black people could do something like fly an airplane. That's why she is one of my many roll models.

When I grow up I want to be a writer. I want to write stories for people of all ages. I love to write my mom, and other people in my family think I write pretty well. I have plenty stories to write because a very active family. my only problem is that I am so shy. I remember one time when I had to write a short story that was 5 paragraphs long I had 18 paragraphs long. my English teacher was very impressed.

I think Bessie Coleman would tell me to keep on writing. Even when people talk bad about me and tell me I can't do it. I think she would also tell me not to be shy and be proud of what I write. I'm proud to be black women because Bessie Coleman was such a good person. I'm so glad she followed her dream and became a pilot because she showed me that I could do anything I put my mind to.



Darryl Jennings Jr.
Overall Winner

“Yes – I Can”

Bessie Coleman, also known as “Queen Bess” was raised in a time where the odds were not in her favor. Her ethnic background consisted of both African American and Native American roots. She was also a woman. The racist and sexist society that she was born into frowned upon minority men as well as women of color. She probably heard all her life that she couldn’t make it or that she wasn’t good enough. I believe that Ms. Coleman felt flying was a way to literally, rise above all the road blocks and challenges of life. Furthermore, the world and its problems shrink and recede into miniature shapes, while the sky carries your mind and soul. Bessie Coleman was not just a pioneer but a visionary. She knew she had the talent and the potential. She was bold and confident in her abilities regardless of her sex and race.

I understand that being bold and confident is only as good as the plan that it is put into. Since my journey in life is just beginning, I believe in having a plan. My plan is comprised of some of my goals, which include:

- graduating with an advanced college degree
- successfully starting my own company
- reaping the benefits of helping others

I set these goals for myself because countless people before me paved a way for generations to go higher and further. Furthermore, I believe in myself; I have seen firsthand how my hard work can pay off. I, like Bessie Coleman, am determined and refused to let anyone deter me from my date with success.

According to Malcolm X, success is where opportunity meets preparation. Although Ms. Coleman was not able to attend aviation camps like youth today, preparation was a quality that she definitely implemented. Traveling all the way to France to learn how to fly, this little young, colored woman prepared herself to become one of the greatest names in African American, Native American, and aviation history. I am sure that if Ms. Coleman was here today, she would encourage all youth to not only pursue but live their dream.

When it comes to accomplishing my goals, Queen Bess would probably tell me, “You must start preparing yourself for the future that you have planned. Don’t let any obstacle deter you from your goals. Make your own pathway to success. Nay sayers will come and go but the impact of true legends will stay forever.” Like a true legend, I plan to reach my goals by pioneering and building bridges that make a way for future generations. I have learned that being great and successful is not caused by what you do for yourself, but how your actions help others.

Khayla Rittenhouse

Bessie Coleman

I think Bessie Coleman set a goal to learn to fly an airplane because she wanted to be in the clear blue sky. She also probably drempt of traveling. And to be one of the first woman to accomplish something that would change people’s lives and let other people feel confident to stand up for herself so they would believe anything was and is possible if you put your mind to it. I think its great that she sat that goal and achieved it. And she wasn’t afraid.

My goal is to be a veterinarian/hairstylist. I want to be a veterinarian because I love animals and will do anything to help or cure them. And I hate seeing them abused. I would also like to be a hairstylist because I love doing hair. And making people look pretty in any way that I can.

Bessie would probably suggest for me to be a vegetarian so I would not eat the animals I love, not to bail out and to be brave. She would also suggest for me to believe that God would be by my side or with me. And to never to give up.

In conclusion I believe if someone who was shot down, ignored, and disrespected can achieve her goals than so can I. She is a great example for me. So if I set my mind to something and believe God will help me I can achieve anything. So I am committed to achieving my goal. And I pray I will.

Gregory Russell

Bessie Coleman

Bessie Coleman was the first African American to get her E.A.I. pilots license. I think that Bessie Coleman flew because she wanted to prove that black people can do anything that white people can do. She wanted to be an example for others. The point is anybody can do anything. All you need is God and a little confidence.

When I grow up I want to help other people. I want to be a surgeon or an engineer. If I don’t want to be either of those, I think I would want to be a surgeon. I would like to make a name for myself. I would like to be a hero, save lives, and do everything I can to help the world. I would like to be active and build things that the world could use in the future. I believe I can do anything with God’s hand.

Bessie Coleman was a great hero. I plan to be one too. But I will have to do a lot before I can even think about that. If I wanted to be an engineer Bessie would tell me that I shouldn’t be afraid to try new things. I also need to gain more confidence ad believe in myself like Bessie. To be a surgeon I would just have to earn a lot of things, but Bessie would encourage me ad tell me to try again. If you don’t try what are you going to get out of yourself? I have to believe if I want to achieve.



Akash Shah

Bessie Coleman was a person who broke many barriers not only for the African American Community, but also for the entire United States no matter what race. She was an extraordinary person, she allowed people to see that no matter who you are, you can't be classified by your race but your achievements. During the time period of her achievements the African American community in the United States were held by barriers and Bessie Coleman helped break those along with many of the civil rights leaders of the 20th century.

Bessie Coleman had many reasons to choose to fly an airplane. The first reason being was that not only was she the first African American to obtain a pilots license, but she was also a woman. In the 20th century becoming an airplane pilot was a very prestigious matter throughout the world. Being the first African American to receive that honor and also being a woman showed everyone throughout the world that anything can be done by anyone. Another reason was that no American was yet to receive an international pilots license. And Again Doing this in her situation was more than an accomplishment it was an honor.

The goals I have set for myself are what allow me to soar at everything I do. The goals I have set start off at achieving the highest grades that I can achieve. I have also tried to do everything in my ability to be the best I can be at everything I do, including sports. My goals after high school start off at receiving a full scholarship from MIT and becoming an aerospace engineer. These goals will not only surpass my expectations but the expectations of everyone around me, which is why I have chosen them.

If Bessie Coleman had one thing to tell me, She would say that I should set barriers for myself and no one else sets barriers for me. She would also say to me that everything I do will influence my future and that only if I work hard will I achieve my goal. Hard work is the key to achieving not only your goal but the goals of so many others throughout this world. She has personally exceeded not only the expectations of those close to her, but the whole world. In these ways she is also similar to me.

Bessie Coleman was not only a person but she was a hero to so many around the world and she still is. Her life is another life that was sacrificed for the well- being of the human race as a whole. And if not for her my goals today would not be as high as they are. Bessie Coleman achieved not only what those around her wanted but what she wanted for herself.

Brianna Shealey

Bessie Coleman was a wonderful woman and pilot. She was the first American citizen to get an international pilot license. She worked hard to achieve her goal. Bessie even had to go to France because of the skin color. She achieved her goal, but she died in an unfortunate plane accident. Bessie Coleman has taught me that if I believe in myself I can achieve anything.

I believe Bessie Coleman set a goal of learning how to fly an airplane because she was fascinated by them. Airplanes were very new back then and were amazing to most people. Bessie knew that she could learn how to fly an airplane and, with some help, she did. She never gave up even when other people gave up on her. She was also determined to show other that she could do it and that is what pushed her through it.

I have set some goals as well. Some goals are to become smarter, to make a million dollars, and to start a business. I want to become smarter because with being smarter, it opens up more doors (such as great colleges, better jobs, etc.) and increases my knowledge of the world \. Being a businesswoman has always been something I wanted to do. I also like the feeling of complete ownership of things. I like making money and having a lot of it to spend, so my goal of making million dollars is big one. I feel that if I make a million dollars, I will have accomplished something important to me. With hard work, dedication, support, and family, I know I can achieve it all.

Bessie Coleman would suggest that I surround myself with positive people, work hard, save my money, and pray. She would also say that I stop spending my money, being lazy, paying attention to what other people have to say, don't smoke, don't do drugs, and don't quit. Overall, she would tell me to believe in myself. I know there is always going to be somebody that tells me that I can't do it. However, if I hold my head high and focus on, I will succeed.

In conclusion, I just need to believe. There will always be people out there that don't believe in themselves and will try to bring me down. There will always someone that says I can't do it. I just have to learn to believe and focus on what I need to do to achieve my goal.



MARCCO DEMOND SMITH II
Winner in age category 10-13

The Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc

Flying airplanes may have been Bessie Coleman's dream. I believe that Ms. Coleman knew what she was capable of, and how to get to it. People set goals depending on a dream, inspiration, and/or their self-determination. Ms. Coleman knew how likely she was to become an airplane pilot in America, during her time.

During Ms. Coleman's learning, practicing, and flying periods, she was discouraged. People like professors made her feel as if she was unworthy to learn how to fly. Actually, during that time, the chance of a **BLACK WOMAN** getting a license was slim to none! As the only smart thing to do, Ms. Coleman saved up and went to France on a ship. There, she pursued her dream and got her license.

Bessie Coleman has taught many people the importance of self-determination. "Not everyone will be my friend!" That's when I should learn to encourage **myself**. I need to have, set, keep, and honor my goals. That's the only way anyone will **EVER** succeed! That's exactly how Ms. Coleman had success.

I've set many goals for my future. My most recent goal is to become a crime scene investigator (CSI). I enjoy watching and learning about crimes and how the scientists connect a crime to a criminal. Personally, I like the laboratories as well! The technology in a lab is very useful and helpful. It scans DNA, Finger/Footprints, etc. and provides a lead on the suspect criminal.

My second goal is to become a pharmaceutical chemist. These doctors are the ones who make medicine. I've always been interested in chemistry. It seems fascinating how people make pills and other concoctions. It has always been my dream to make medicine!

The last goal I've set is to become a teacher. I've always been interested in teaching. When I was in third grade, I began tutoring my classmates. Next, I began to tutor my friends. Teaching is a great interest to me. If I do not succeed in becoming either a chemist or a CSI, I want to be a teacher!

There are many things, Ms. Bessie Coleman would have told me to improve/begin doing. For instance, Ms. Bessie Coleman might have advised me about my laziness. She'd tell me that if I want to reach my goals, I have to work for it. "LAZINESS is **NOT** an OPTION!!!" She might have said. Ms. Bessie Coleman could have showed me that I need to be proactive and not reactive!!!!

The second thing Ms. Coleman would tell me to do would be to find more information on the career goals I have. It is always good to know about a career before I get to college. Knowing what you want to do, and the information for it will allow you to get a head start on a career. Ms. Coleman would probably tell me to find books, practice, and go to AP Classes. Then when I get to college, I'd have a better chance at going and getting my degree early.

Ms. Bessie Coleman has taught me a lot. One of the main things I've learned is to take action for my goals. I need to research my goals and look for colleges. This foundation itself has opened my eyes to see that life will begin to pass me by if I don't take action. I thank you all from The Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc. and Ms. Bessie Coleman.

-Marcco Demond Smith II
8th Grade

Queen Bess

Jazmyne P Spurlock
Winner in age category 14-17

She was determined to amount to something. Wings were her transportation to fly
And though the world was filled with hatred

She settled that score in the sky

Some tried to stop her future because of her sex and race

Some tried to deny her success because their morals were misplaced

I'm a believer in myself

And won't stop until I reach the top

Queen Bess used wings to fly...

Words are my vehicle,

And journalism is my ticket to soar

If she were alive today what would she say?

Her words of wisdom would be...

The power of your mind and your freedom to use it will give you an open ticket to pursue
your dreams and make your own mark in the sky.

Kayla Trice

I think Bessie Coleman set a goal to learn how to fly an airplane so she can explore other places she did it to explore other people lives. I think she could go all over the world. She knew that she could fly an airplane. She was happy to be a success. She made history.

If I was Bessie the goals I will set from my self is to become an obstetrician .The reason I want to be an obstetrician so I can save and take out babies. I think it is amazing to take out a new creature of Christ is born. I know it's a nasty job. I have set my mind to become an obstetrician.

I think Bessie would suggest me to start accomplishing my goal. To believe I can do it. I am smart. I can do what ever I set my mind. Become what I want to be.

Bessie showed me I could do anything - If I can set my mind to do anything. Believe that I am smart. I will follow Bessie. Until I die.



Yazmin Turnbull

Facts on Bessie Coleman

Ms. Coleman was 1st to earn a F.A.I. Pilot's license. Bessie Coleman was also trained to fly in France. And Ms. Coleman died in an airplane accident. She lived around the 1920s. Her goal was to become a flight instructor.

Ms. Coleman was very young to fly an airplane. And the entire place she went to learn how to fly an airplane no one gave her a chance. Her teachers said that she was black and said that she could not fly an airplane. She went to France to learn how to fly an airplane and after she learned how to fly. Bessie had earned her F.A.I. Pilot's License. She was the 1st American to do so.

My goals are a Teacher and Cheerleading Coach. I want to be a teacher like my mother. I like to help little children with preambles they have at school in their life. So that's why I want to be a teacher. And want to be a cheerleading coach. I was a cheerleader in Per -K at the age 5.

Bessie would suggest that I will need to go to meetings. Also make sure I need to write a little better. Also stop being bossy and mean to people. And start to go back reading at home.

Martin Luther King, Rosa Park, Bessie Coleman, and Barack Obama say that anybody can do any thing and they can be when they grown up. Nobody can tell you can not do any thing. Tell your self that you can be anything you to be.

Anthony Warren-Loveless

POEM

I think that Ms. Coleman set a goal to the sky to prove to that man or woman can fly. African Americans should be treated equally and to also prove what you set your mind to it can be true.

My goals are to try being apart of history but my recipes become a mystery. As being the greatest chef of all. I am going to be better at mathematics, get higher grades than what I have, and to follow the laws of my god.

Ms. Coleman would suggest to stop playing, stay in class, don't get involved in things that are dangerous, don't have a fuse, ignore negative people around me, I will walk and not flee, always fight with words, fly like a bird, care for other people and give all my effort in whatever I do. I want to stay strong and have a bright future forever.

I want to start helping my family and give them what they need to succeed in my life

Sincerely, Anthony

P.S. keep flying forward



Keith Young

Why do you think Bessie Coleman set a goal for herself? Bessie Coleman set her goal because there were people out there criticizing her and one thing that kept her confident was her goal. Not only did she have many goals but Bessie Coleman accomplished her goals being the first American citizen to get her pilot's license. Bessie showed everyone who doubted her that she could be a pilot and that it's not what color you are it's what you do. What goals have you set for yourself? Why? The goals I have set are to get good grades, go to college, and to come out of college with the highest degree I can get in my major. I have to keep good grades so I can go to college. I want to come out with the highest degree so I can get a job best for me and not a job that I don't deserve. What would Bessie Coleman suggest that you have to start, or stop doing in order to accomplish your goals? I just would need to work hard at everything I do. I would also have to pick up my slack and not to be so lazy sometimes. She also would say get your work done, turn it in on time, and don't wait till last minute to do things. Bessie Coleman has inspired me to work at everything and don't let anyone stop you or say you can't do something. I will always strive for the best.



Special Thanks to the BCF Essay Committee:

*Celika Caldwell - Chair
Arlander Barker
Jacqueline Pilot
Jilda Motley, PhD*

